

MEDICAREMATTERS

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CMS Drug Card
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NEW PREVENTIVE SERVICES FROM MEDICARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Living a healthy lifestyle is important and **Medicare** wants to help beneficiaries stay healthy. **Medicare Part B** covers many different preventive services including mammography screenings, Pap tests and pelvic exams, colorectal screenings, prostate cancer screenings, flu, pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B vaccinations, bone mass measurements, and glaucoma screenings.

Starting in 2005, new preventive benefits are now available for people with Medicare. These new preventive benefits include the following:

- One-time "Welcome to Medicare" Physical Exam
- Cardiovascular Screening
- Diabetes Screening to check for diabetes

If Medicare Part B coverage begins on or after January 1, 2005, Medicare will cover a one-time preventive physical exam within the first six months of coverage. The exam includes a thorough review of health, education and counseling about preventive services a beneficiary may require, and referrals for other care if it is needed. The **"Welcome to Medicare" physical exam** is a great way for Medicare beneficiaries to get up-to-date information on important screenings and services, and to talk with their doctor about their family history and how to stay healthy.

In addition, Medicare now covers **cardiovascular screenings** that check for cholesterol and other blood fat (lipid) levels. High levels of cholesterol can increase the risk for heart disease and stroke. Medicare will cover these screening tests every five years, so that lifestyle changes, such as diet and exercise routines, can be changed.

Additionally, Medicare now covers a **fasting plasma glucose test to check for diabetes** up to twice a year for Medicare patients at risk for developing diabetes. This includes those beneficiaries who have high blood pressure, history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels, obesity, or a history of high blood sugar. Medicare also covers certain supplies and self-management training to find and treat diabetes.

For more information about these important preventive services, call **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Information is also available at **www.medicare.gov** on the web.



CMS DRUG CARD ON-LINE ENROLLMENT CENTER

CMS is pleased to announce the launch of the **Online Enrollment Center (OEC)** to facilitate the online enrollment of individuals eligible for the \$600 credit into many of the available general Medicare-approved drug discount card programs. **Please Note:** the OEC will **only be available for individuals who are eligible for the \$600 credit** based on the answers provided when answering the screening questions. The OEC is available through the **Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs/Price Compare (PDAP/PC)** section of **www.medicare.gov**.